Focused Monitoring Selection

Illinois State Board of Education
Special Education Services
2014-2015 Webinar
The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) states ...

“The primary focus of the state’s monitoring activities must be on improving educational results and functional outcomes for all children with disabilities …”

34 CFR 300.600(b)(1)
Therefore, the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) requires each state to ... 

Have a **monitoring** system that -

- **Monitors** the implementation of IDEA by local education agencies.
- **Corrects** noncompliance within 12 calendar months of identification of findings.
- **Enforces** requirements in accordance with IDEA.
What is Focused Monitoring?

Focused monitoring is a process that purposefully selects a Performance Indicator to examine for compliance/results while not specifically examining other areas to maximize resources, emphasize important variables, and increase the probability of improved results.
Focused Monitoring is NOT -

- designed in isolation,
- an investigation of all IDEA regulations,
- cyclical, or
- only about the on-site visit
“Begin with the end in mind.”

~ Stephen Covey, The 7 Habits of Highly Successful People
Corrective Action Plans lead to

- Improved educational results and functional outcomes for students with disabilities,
- Data-driven results,
- 100% compliance, and
- Systemic change.
Results of Focused Monitoring - 

**Compliance with IDEA regulations in Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) for improved academic outcomes for students with disabilities having an IEP**
Focused Monitoring in Illinois is ...

- Centered around Performance Indicator 5A of the State Performance Plan (SPP)
- Addresses the educational environment of students with disabilities

Focused Monitoring in Illinois Spotlights

SPP Indicator 5A, FAPE in the Least Restrictive Environment:

- The percent of students with disabilities having an IEP, ages 6 through 21, inside the regular (general) education classroom 80% or more of the school day.

- Measurable and Rigorous Target for 2013-14 was 52.00% for 5A.
What is the basis for focused monitoring selection?
Selection Is Based on Performance within the Enrollment Group

Educational Environment

- The focused monitoring school selection process utilizes school data from the state’s Funding and Child Tracking System (FACTS) to rank and compare schools within networks on the selected Performance Indicator. In most instances, those schools in the designated network having a percentage most discrepant from the rigorous target for the Indicator will receive an on-site review.
Process of Selection

- Schools are ranked based on the percentage of students receiving special education services in the general education setting for 80% or more of the day (EE01).
- Schools whose data is below the Measurable and Rigorous Target (52.00%) may be selected for an on-site visit.
- School data is compared to other schools in the same network, district, and State rigorous target.
What are the Steps in the Focused Monitoring Process?

- ISBE Selection
- Written Notification of Selection
- Selection of the School’s Leadership Team
- Participation in this Webinar
- Focused Monitoring School and Network Training
- Confirmation of the Public Forum
- Pre-visit Activities
- On-site Review
- Final Report
- Corrective Action Plan and Progress Reports (if needed)
- Evidence of Correction and Change
Pre-visit Data Analysis ...

**Educational Environment Quantitative Data**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building/School (if applicable)</th>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Disability</th>
<th>Race</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**School Culture Qualitative Data**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff Survey</th>
<th>Special Education Policies/Procedures</th>
<th>Home/School Collaboration</th>
<th>Description of Alternative Placements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Potential Hypothesis for Pre-Visit Data Analysis**
Focused Monitoring includes ...

- Quantitative – Statistical results for validation
- Qualitative – On-site data collection through inquiry
Selected CPS School Training Agenda

- Welcome
  - Introduction of ISBE staff
  - Brief Overview
- Using Data for Educational Improvement
- Panel Discussion
- Process
- Wrap-up
Focused Monitoring Selected School Training

November 13, 2014, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Charles A. Hayes Center
4859 South Wabash Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60615
312.786.6986

Register with Cookie Thigpen
312.814.5560 or cthigpen@isbe.net
Wrap-up

- Appeals must be made by October 24, 2014, and include supporting documentation.
- Send Appeals to Cookie Thigpen via e-mail at cthigpen@isbe.net
- Appeals will not be granted if the CPS and/or school
  - Submits inaccurate data to ISBE, or
  - Disputes the process and measures used to select schools.
- A copy of the Webinar will be available at http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/focused_monitoring.htm
Contact Information

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